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tance of quantitative methods is just as great. While de Vries was making the now celebrated experiments upon which his theory is based Pearson and his associates were developing the methods of quantitative investigation in variation and heredity. It will be unfortunate indeed if present day workers neglect this new and powerful instrument of research. But with a proper combination of experimental and biometric methods it should be possible to gain a very precise knowledge of the processes involved in species formation.

J. A. HARRIS.

A Monument to Theodor Schwann.—Theodor Schwann was born at Neuss on the Rhine, December 7, 1810. On the centennial of that date it is proposed to unveil a monument to his memory in his native town. A considerable sum is already in hand and a committee representing all countries has issued an appeal for subscriptions for the memorial. As is well known, he with Schleiden, placed the cell-theory on a substantial basis sixty-five years ago; while his later work was almost equally valuable though not so startling in character. He became an authority on fermentation, decomposition, digestion and spontaneous generation, and, not least, was the discoverer of pepsin. A monument to his associate has been erected in Jena while his master Johannus Müller has a bronze memorial in his native town, Coblenz. Contributions may be sent direct to the 'Städtische Sparkasse, Neuss am Rhein, Germany' marked 'Schwannendenkmal' or probably to the American members of the Committee, Prof. C. S. Minot of Boston and Prof. R. Ramsay Wright of Toronto.

Fitch's Basis of Mind and Morals.¹—This book is a brief exposition of the principles of evolution as stated by Darwin and Spencer, together with a discussion of the evolution of mind and of the natural code of ethics. The point of view of the book is phenomenalistic; the style is simple, clear and direct. For those who have thought seriously about the problems of evolution the work has little value; for those who wish to be stimulated to such thought it may prove profitable.

The author contends that there should be a natural code of ethics. He does not attempt to construct such a code, but, instead states that it should be the result of man's knowledge of natural causes and

¹ Fitch, M. H. *The Physical Basis of Mind and Morals*. Chicago, Charles H. Kerr and Company. 1906. 266 pp.

effects. "But I repeat, he says that until men come to comprehend a natural cause for every natural effect they should be controlled in their attitude toward environment, including their brother men, by some code that will have the proper effect, however based that code may be." (p. 255.)

GEOLOGY.

The reconstruction of the Continents of Tertiary times is the topic discussed in a paper by W. D. Matthew.¹ Using the evidence furnished by the distribution of fossil and recent Mammals, he tries to reconstruct the outlines of the old land-masses, and illustrates his results by seven maps, which represent the geographical conditions of the earth's surface in Postcretaceous time (immediately after the close of the Cretaceous), in the middle Eocene, in the middle Oligocene, in the Miocene, in the Pliocene, in the early Pleistocene, and in recent times.

This paper undoubtedly marks an important progress in this branch of research. Comparing it with the last attempt to reconstruct the old continents, made by Ortmann in 1902 (*Pr. Amer. Philos. Soc.* **41**), we see that here only two maps were given, for the lower and for the upper Tertiary period. Neither agrees entirely with any one of Matthew's maps, although the one for the lower Tertiary corresponds rather closely to the middle Eocene map, and the one for the upper Tertiary to that of the Miocene. But complete agreement cannot be expected, considering the extreme difficulties with which such investigations are connected. Indeed, it is rather surprising that Matthew's studies, in many points, have led to results, which largely indorse the views held by Ortmann, and furnish additional support for many of the accepted features of ancient geography.

Studies of this kind are often regarded as rather phantastic and without sufficient support to render the conclusions trustworthy enough to give them universal recognition. But Matthew's paper again demonstrates that it *is* possible to express definite views as to the shape, the connections and disconnections of the continents,

¹ Matthew, W. D. Hypothetical Outlines of the Continents in Tertiary times. (*Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, **22**, 1906, p. 353-383. 7 maps).